

Bremer: A 'Suspicious person' in Michigan

KALAMAZOO, Mich. (AP) — Kalamazoo police said today the loner held in Maryland in the wounding Monday of Gov. George C. Wallace of Alabama was questioned here Saturday on "a suspicious person" report four hours before Wallace spoke at a Kalamazoo rally.

The questioning followed what police said was an anonymous telephone call that "a suspicious man" had been sitting in a car "most of the day" in a parking lot across from the National Guard Armory where the Wallace rally was to be held at 8 p.m.

Patrolman Edward Gooding, who investigated about 4 p.m., said the man identified himself as Arthur H. Bremer and said he was born Aug. 21, 1950.

Gooding said the man was about 5-foot-6, weighed about 145 pounds and was in a 1968 blue Rambler automobile bearing 1972 Wisconsin license plates QF8154.

The policeman said the man was wearing a Wallace campaign button and told him he merely was waiting for the rally to begin, having come early to assure himself a seat.

Gooding apparently was satisfied with the man's story and did not search him, police reported.

Meanwhile, in Bremer's home town of Milwaukee, Wis., the onetime photography student was described by relatives and acquaintances as a youth who kept his opinions to himself, developed few friendships and was something of a puzzle even to his family.

Bremer, 21, is being held in lieu of \$200,000 bond in Maryland, under federal charges of assaulting a candidate for public office and a federal officer and under state charges of assault with intent to kill.

Although acquaintances, including classmates in his college photography class, said they were not aware of political interests or activity on the part of the blond young man with close cropped hair, effects found in his Milwaukee apartment Monday night indicated otherwise. He reportedly had shaved his head last January after his 16-year-old girl friend broke up with him.

Among the items in the West Side apartment were a Confederate flag and newspaper clippings about Wallace's campaign, some dating to 1968 when Wallace staged a third-party effort.

"He must have been for George Wallace, because he had a Wallace sticker across the door," said Stephen Wasche, 17, a neighbor in the apartment house.

Bremer moved into the apartment from his family's South Side home last fall. Neighbors said he dropped from

sight about a month ago, just after Wallace came in second in the Wisconsin primary.

Wasche also said he was "pretty

Turn to Page 12, Column 1

Continued from Page 1

sure" that Bremer had worked for Wallace in the Wisconsin Democratic primary campaign in April.

But a member of Wallace's campaign staff said Bremer was not a bona fide campaign worker.

"He's not part of the campaign," Frank Daniel said. "I did recall seeing him, or someone just like him, at a campaign rally in Milwaukee. The hair style stuck in my mind."

Bremer has blond, short-cropped hair.

Daniel, an assistant to Wallace's chief campaign director, Charles Snider, said he does not recall seeking Bremer at any campaign rally except once in Wisconsin. "I'm sure the governor didn't know him," Daniel said. "I don't believe he did."

Bremer's truck driver father, William, 58, said his son had "never mentioned anything political," but he said he had learned that his son was a "dues-paying member of the 12th Ward Democratic unit."

Scraps of writing evidently by Arthur Herman Bremer provided more questions than answers about the young man who was accused yesterday of shooting presidential candidate George C. Wallace.

His apartment was explored by FBI agents and newsmen who found a Confederate flag, comic books, a gun catalog, an elementary-school report card, newspaper clippings about Wallace, and several bits of writing.

"My country 'tis of thee, sweet land of bigotry," a piece of paper said.

Other writings included:

"Happiness is hearing George Wallace singing the National Anthem or having him arrested for a hit-and-run accident."

"Nixon uses a night light."

"White collar conservative."

A poem titled "Critique of My Life" begins: "Trying to impress people."

Members of Bremer's family—who hadn't seen him since he moved to the

apartment in October—described him as "shy and timid," and they expressed disbelief that he could have been involved in the shooting.

"We could never talk to him," said a younger brother, Roger, 18. "We never knew much about him." Roger said his mother, Sylvia, 57, had tried to visit Arthur at the apartment but he slammed the door in her face.

Gary MacDonald, who attended photography classes with Bremer at Milwaukee Area Technical College last year, said Bremer very seldom talked to anybody, and he called Bremer "the quietest kid there." A photography instructor, James Johannes, termed Bremer "a confident loner."

Wasche said Bremer, a 1968 graduate of Milwaukee South Division High School, "was always smiling, that weird smile."

Bremer's father said his son "never had a gun to my knowledge. He never went hunting."

BUT AMONG the items found in the apartment were two boxes of shells—one containing 21 .38-caliber shells, the other 23 9mm cartridges—and seven targets, as well as some gun magazines.

U.S. Atty. George Beall said in Maryland that a check of a .38-caliber revolver found on the ground near Bremer when he was apprehended immediately after Wallace was shot showed the weapon had been purchased by Bremer in Milwaukee on Jan. 13.

Police records show he was arrested Nov. 18 in suburban Fox Point on a charge of carrying a concealed weapon, a charge later reduced to disorderly conduct.

"I can't believe it," Bremer's father said of the shooting.

"If my boy did it he must have got awfully sick. Anybody who would do a thing like that has got to be out of his mind."

"There's no explanation we can give at all," said Theodore Bremer, 34, eldest of four sons in the family. "I only hope that Mr. Wallace pulls through."